



ARDAŠĪR MĪRZĀ

ARDAŠĪR MĪRZĀ ROKN-AL-DAWLA, the ninth son of the crown prince ‘Abbās Mīrzā, was born about 1220/1805-06, and held the governorship of Garrūs and Šā‘īn Qaḷ‘a-ye Afšār under his father’s viceregency of Azarbaijan (Moḥammad-Ḥasan Khan Šanī‘-al-dawla, *Montaẓam-e nāšeri* III, Tehran, 1300/1883, p. 157; Jahāngīr Mīrzā, *Tārīk-e now*, ed. ‘A. Eqbāl, Tehran, 1327 Š./1948, p. 187; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* I, p. 107). When Fath-‘Alī Shah died in 1250/1834 and various princes rose up to contest Moḥammad Shah’s accession, Ardašīr Mīrzā was commissioned to deal with Esmā‘īl Mīrzā, governor of Šāhrūd and Beštām and a son of Fath-‘Alī Shah; he successfully accomplished this task (Moḥammad-Ja‘far Kormūjī, *Ḥaqā‘eq al-aḵbār-e nāšeri*, 2nd ed., p. 25), and after returning to Tehran was appointed governor of Gorgān. In 1252/1836 Moḥammad Shah set out from Tehran on an expedition to subdue the Turkmans of Gorgān and reconquer Herat, and on reaching Gorgān he sent Ardašīr Mīrzā back to Tehran to act as regent in his absence. After the Shah’s return, Ardašīr Mīrzā was appointed governor of Māzandarān (*Montaẓam*, p. 167; *Ḥaqā‘eq al-aḵbār*, p. 25), where he remained for seven years. During that time a man claiming to be the Imam and known as Ḥaẓrat-e Īšān arose among Turkmans and gathered a following. Moḥammad Shah made Ardašīr Mīrzā and Moḥammad-Ḥasan Khan Īravānī jointly responsible for quelling the man, which they succeeded in doing (*Ḥaqā‘eq al-aḵbār*, p. 31). In 1262/1846 Ardašīr was appointed governor of Lorestān and Kūzestān, where he put down local disorders (*Montaẓam*, p. 197; *Ḥaqā‘eq al-aḵbār*, p. 88). While in that post he employed a Christian, Solaymān Khan Masīḥī Sehām-al-dawla, as his vizier. After restoring order at Golpāyagān and Kᵛānsār and in Čahār Maḥāl(l) and



Farīdan, the two marched into Lorestān, where they captured rebel Pīrānvand, Sagvand, and other tribesmen and sent them to Tehran, and then advanced to Šūštar and Dezful and restored order throughout Kūzestān. On leaving the post, Ardašīr Mīrzā was reappointed to the governorship of Māzandarān. In 1269/1853 he was appointed governor of Tehran on the occasion of Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah's absence, and he continued to hold the office until 1273/1856. In that year he was honored with the title Rokn-al-dawla and appointed viceroy of Azarbaijan (*Montaẓam*, p. 252; *Ḥaqā'eq al-aḵbār*, p. 227); a post he held for two years. He then became governor of Gīlān in 1276/1859 (*Montaẓam*, p. 267; *Ḥaqā'eq al-aḵbār*, p. 356), and there also he stayed two years. This was apparently his last important function. He died in 1283/1866. In the following year his title was assigned to Moḥammad Taqī Mīrzā, a son of Moḥammad Shah (*Mer'āt al-boldān* III, p. 63).

Ardašīr Mīrzā was a cultivated man with literary and poetic tastes, and himself a poet under the pen-name Āgāh; but he was a heavy drinker and died of liver disease brought on by alcoholic excess.

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Ī. Afšār, Tehran, 1349 Š./1970.

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